

CHS CHECKUP



A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

March 12, 2001

NEWS BRIEFS

VACATION KENTUCKY

Where are you taking your vacation or weekend getaways this year? Florida? Hilton Head? New York? What about Kentucky?

Joe Platt will be here on March 14 for Wake Up Wednesday to tell us about Kentucky's wonderful lakes and rivers, beautiful wooded areas, and fun-filled resorts.

He will also have brochures, maps, vacation guides and other free gifts. Wake Up Wednesday - Getting Away in Kentucky -- starts at 8:30 a.m. in the CHS Auditorium, Health Services Building.



TIP OF
THE
WEEK

March is National Nutrition Month and the theme is "Food and Fitness: Build a Healthy Lifestyle." This theme incorporates the new dietary guidelines, Aim, Build and Choose, which can help you reach your goals in your daily effort for good health and fitness. Incorporating nutrition and fitness into your lifestyle will help build lifelong health plus reduce stress and improve your mood. For more information, see the American Dietetic Association website at: <http://www.eatright.org>

Boyd Resigns As Medicaid Commissioner; Hesen Named Interim

Medicaid Commissioner Dennis Boyd announced he is resigning, effective March 15, after three years at the head of the \$3.2 billion program in the Cabinet for Health Services. Boyd will be returning to the University of Louisville, where he worked before becoming commissioner of Medicaid.

Ellen Hesen, who has been general counsel for the Cabinet for Health Services since 1996, was named interim commissioner pending a search for a permanent commissioner. John Walker will serve as interim general counsel during this period.

Jimmy D. Helton announced March 2 that he was resigning as the secretary of the Cabinet for

Health Services effective March 15. At that time Gov. Paul Patton announced that, because of the importance of the Medicaid program, he would appoint a special advisor to the governor on Medicaid, Kathy Kustra.

Kustra will head up an Executive Steering Committee on Medicaid, which will have oversight of the program. Hesen has been appointed to that committee.

As general counsel, Hesen has served as the chief legal advisor for the cabinet secretary and is responsible for legal services for all agencies within the cabinet, including the Department for Medicaid Services.



Baby Faces Will Help Raise Money For March of Dimes Fundraiser This Month

How good are you putting a face with a name?

Three CHS offices are holding a baby picture-guessing contest to help raise money for the March of Dimes.

Employees in the Office of Program Support, General Counsel and Secretary's Office are being asked to submit baby photos by March 20. (See Ricky Spaulding, ext. 3913, 5th floor 5W-D, for details). All photos

will be returned.

For \$2, anyone can attempt to match the correct names to the baby pictures. Pictures will be



posted March 21 on the 5th floor hallway behind the secretary's office. The person with the most correct matches will win a \$15 gift certificate from O'Charley's.

The names and winner will be announced on March 29th at 1:30 p.m.



Strategic Planning Seeks Employee Input

The CHS Strategic Planning Team, composed of representatives from every program area within our Cabinet, has reached a consensus on our Cabinet's Core Values, Vision and Mission. You can review this important information by clicking on the web address below:

http://www.gotsource.net/dscgi/ds.py/Get/File-738/Cabinet_for_Health_Services_VALUES,_VISION,_MISSION.doc

The team now needs your thoughts and suggestions regarding what goals and objectives your agency would like to see in the strategic plan, based on the tasks your agency performs and how your agency relates to the Core Values, Vision and Mission Statement. Contact your agency's strategic planning communications liaison at the address or number listed below to share your ideas and comments:

Pat Brodie, MHMR, 564-4527
Alice DeLambre, Aging, 564-6930
Sandra Diebold, Medicaid, 564-5183
Scott Hampton, OPS/Technology, 564-7510
Mike Lawrence, OIG, 564-2815
Gwen Mayes, Women's Health, 564-9358
Betty Olinger, Public Health, 564-4990

Anja Peersen, Commission for Children, 502-595-4459
Mary Rhodes, Medicaid, 564-5183
Linda Roten, MHMR, 564-4527
Barbara Rutledge, OPS, 564-5705
Donna Stucker, Medicaid, 564-5080
Sharon Stumbo, Public Health, 564-3970



Danser Retirement Reception March 30

Helen L. Danser will retire from MH/MR's Division of Mental Health on March 31. Danser, a licensed pharmacist, held a number of positions within the Cabinet for Human Resources and the Cabinet for Health Services. She has served state government, providers, consumers, and family members for 34 years.

She was recently honored with an award from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration for her work in licensing and monitoring Kentucky's methadone treatment programs.

A reception will be held in her honor March 30, from 2-4 p.m. in MH/MR's large conference room, 100 Fair Oaks Lane, fourth floor.



Lightning: Know The Safety Rules When It Strikes

Lightning kills more people than any other kind of storm, including hurricanes and tornadoes. Last year, five lives were lost to lightning in Kentucky. Lightning seriously injures more people than are killed by it.

Be prepared when lightning strikes. Learn to recognize the danger signs of approaching severe weather such as threatening clouds or distant thunder.

High winds, rainfall, and cloud cover often come before actual cloud-to-ground



**Severe
Weather
Month**

strikes. Many lightning injuries occur as the storm approaches because people ignore these signs.

Many injuries occur after the perceived threat has passed.

Generally, the lightning threat diminishes with time after the last sound of thunder, but may persist for more than 30 minutes. When thunderstorms are in the area but not overhead, the lightning threat can exist even when it is sunny, not raining, or when clear sky is visible.

When these situations exist, the

Kentucky Division of Emergency Management says:

- ü Seek shelter in a sturdy building. If a building is not nearby, a vehicle is suitable, but keep the windows closed.
- ü When inside a building, remember that telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances and unplug all large appliances. Avoid taking a bath or shower, or running water for any other purpose. Turn off the air conditioner— power surges from lightning can overload the compressor. And don't forget to unplug the computer!



The CHS Checkup is a newsletter for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services. Please direct contributions or comments to the Office of Communications, 502-564-6786. Printed with state funds.

